Harold Weisberg
% Dell Publishing Co.
750 Third Avenue
N.Y. N.Y. 10017

April 12, 1967

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have just finished your fine book, Whitewash, and wish to add a little to the problem of ammunition.

For years I have owned and shot a 6.5 Swedish Mauser, and until 1963 can reliably inform you that no one made modern cartridges for this weapon, and in this year the sole manufacturer was Norma, of Sweden. Also, when Western came out with a competing line, in 1964, the box did not say "Mannlicher-Carcano" on it, naturally, since there are many other rifles of this caliber which use this ammunition and they wouldn't wish to limit their sales. I'm referring to your page 73 of the Dell paper-back.

Therefore, if there was any 6.5 activity on that horrible day, it was quite old military ammunition, or reloads. If the former, there would be absolutel no question in the matter, since the primers used in those days had two holes in them, whereas the modern versions have but one, and also the military stuff leaves a green stain on the cleaning rag; the modern version doesn't. If reloads were used, this could easily be checked - I doubt if there are many gun shops in Dallas with 6.5 dies and etc.

On the other hand, 7.65 ammo was available in modern form, and my feeling is that the first reports, that such a weapon was found initially, probably had something to them. No one but an idiot would use ammunition from the first world war in a task like the one presumed, but you can buy good 7.65's and they take a scope nicely, while the 6.5's generally do not. In short, the weapon was decided upon to be a 6.5 because one of these had been purchased by the alledged assassan.

However, you've said most of what should be said, the problem is, what is to be done? The general temper of the country seems to be that nothing much matters anymore, as reflected, for example, in Buckley's comment that he didn't really carewho killed the president. There may, in fact, be something to Russell's suspicion, that man may be simply deplorable after all. Even so,

Most cordially,

R.B. Wright
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Pomona, Calif.